



Slough Consortium of Grammar Schools Admission to Year 7 in September 2025

Parents' 11+ Examination Briefing – April 2024

Summary of Questions asked and Consortium responses

General arrangements for taking the 11+ examination

Do we need to register with all 4 schools separately or just once for 4 schools.

- You register with the Slough Consortium in May/June just **once** for the Slough consortium test. Children take **one** test to assess their eligibility for **any** of the four Slough grammar schools.

Is there any charge for the 11+ examination?.

- You do not need to pay for the 11+ test.

Where are the test held? Are test centres at the 4 grammar schools? How do we select which one to go to?

- The four Slough grammar schools are used as the test centres for the Slough consortium test. You can express a preference for a particular test centre but we cannot guarantee this. It doesn't matter which test centre your child sits the test at – it's just a venue for taking the test.

Will there be a mock test before the actual exam day?

- There are no mock tests of official practice papers for the Slough Consortium 11+ test.

Can children wear an analogue watch in the exam? Can digital watches be worn? Can they bring a water bottle or a snack?

- Children can wear an analogue watch if they wish to. **No smartwatches are permitted.** The exam room will also have a clock easily visible.
- Water bottles are allowed, and children can bring a snack for the break between papers.

If we are assigned a morning or afternoon session, could we change the session if it clashes with the test date of other schools? If the exam date clashes with other schools, is there a catch-up date?

- The Slough Consortium 11+ examination is scheduled to avoid clashes with 11+ tests at other nearby schools. If there are clashes with other schools further away, parents will normally have to prioritise which examination they wish their child to take.
- There is no provision for late testing in the event of clashes with other 11+ tests.

Which schools use the same test please? Can I still enrol in the 11+ test of Slough if I live in Reading?

- The Slough Consortium has its own contract with GL Assessment as the test provider. Some other grammar schools also use GL Assessment, but the tests themselves will be different.
- If you live in Reading and wish your child to sit the Slough Consortium test, you must register directly with the Slough Consortium.

Can the parents register with the same email for 2 child (twin siblings) who are taking the test?

- You can use the same parent contact details and email address, but you **must register each child separately**. Make sure you tell us they are twins and we can ensure they are allocated the same test centre.

SEND, special consideration and Pupil Premium

Will provision be made for a visually impaired child?

- Particular provision can be made for pupils who are visually impaired. Make sure all relevant details are provided on the registration form and specific arrangements can then be discussed with the Admissions Officer of the relevant test centre.

Do dyslexic pupils have the option of applying for extra time and is this commonly granted?

- Extra time of up to 25% may be available for candidates with recognised special educational needs or disabilities.

What kind of evidence or documents we need to provide for SEND or other special arrangements?

- Parents would need to supply evidence of a child's EHCP and/or details and evidence of the current support/provision being undertaken at child's current educational setting.

Are there any allocated places for pupil premium? If yes, are out of catchment children accepted?

- Please refer to individual school admissions policies for details about how children who attract Pupil Premium funding may be prioritised for admission. This is an individual decision for each school.

The 11+ examination itself

What is the format of the test? Are there multiple choice questions? How long are the tests? How many questions are there in each test paper? Is there a break between the two tests? Are the morning and afternoon sessions use the same paper? Are the papers marked by computer software or human? Where can children do rough work?

- The Slough Consortium 11+ test consists of **2 papers**, each taking 60 to 65 minutes to complete.
- Each paper has a **mix of questions** covering **verbal, non-verbal and numerical ability**. The actual number of questions may vary from year to year.
- There will be a **short break** between the two test papers.
- The same papers are used in both the morning and afternoon sessions across all four test centres.
- Pupils indicate their answers on a **separate answer sheet**. The answer sheets are scanned and marked using computer software. This is done by the test provider and is a highly accurate process.
- Children can use the question booklets for rough work.

Can you tell us what the percentage of verbal, non-verbal and mathematical elements will be in the test? Are the elements equally weighed to calculate the standardised score?

- Each paper consists of a mixture of the three elements
- We **do not publish the weighting** of the different elements of the paper.

What is the total number of marks of the exam? What is the total marks for each paper? What is the total score of the exam please? Is there any negative marking? When the result is communicated do you get the actual score of your child? Do you get a breakdown of how pupils scored in the different papers?

- We do **not** provide any information about the number of questions or total number of marks.
- Each child is initially given a total number of marks from the questions answered. There is no negative marking. This raw score is converted to a **standardised score** by the test provider.
- Your child will receive their standardised score. Raw scores will **not** be provided at any point.
- No breakdown of the score is provided.

Is there any additional time for younger children (August born)? What happens if my child is summer-born? How does standardisation work?

- Raw scores are age-standardised to provide a final standardised score which is fair to all pupils whenever their birthday.
- Summer-born children have their age taken into account by the standardisation process.
- All children are given the same time to complete the test, unless they have special consideration for SEND or medical needs.

When the scores are sent to parents, if the score is higher than the minimum required, does that classify as an offer? Or will we only know in March 2025 whether the child will get the admission or not?

- Scores are sent to parents before school applications are made on the Common Application Form.
- A standardised score of **111 or above** means that a child is eligible to be considered for a place by any of the grammar schools to which they apply.
- A standardised score of 111 or above is **not** an offer of a place, and does not guarantee a place.
- Allocations of schools will be confirmed in March 2025.

Can you pay to get your exam re-marked? What is the process of re-mark?

- The marking process, which is carried out by GL Assessment, is highly accurate. GL Assessment do not offer the facility for a re-mark.

What is the standardised score out of? What does a score of 111 mean?

- The standardised score has a mid-point of 100. A child scoring 100 is in the middle of the range.
- The scale is fixed so that a score of 111 means that the child falls in the top 35% of the range. When the results are published, 35% of those taking the test will score 111 or above.

Do you publish any further information about the test? Where can I find familiarisation material or practice papers?

- We only publish the information in the presentation and in these FAQs. No further information is available about the nature of the test.
- GL Assessment provide some familiarisation material so children can see the question and answer format. This will be available from the grammar school, websites when it has been received from GL Assessment.
- GL Assessment do publish various practice papers, but these are not specifically for the Slough examination.

Applying to schools, the Common Application Form, and allocation of places

I am living outside of Slough - what is the admission process for children outside Slough. If my child goes to school in Slough but lives in Windsor do we apply to Windsor for CAF? What if we live in Bucks?

- You must complete the Common Application Form (CAF) for the Local Authority area in which you live. If your child goes to school in a different local authority area, you must still apply on your 'home' Local Authority CAF.
- You can still list schools from outside your home local authority area on the CAF

When is the CAF deadline?

- The CAF deadline is **31st October 2024**. This is a national deadline.

Can you pick more than one grammar school eg mix of Berks and Bucks. Is it possible to apply to Slough grammar schools even though living outside Slough? How many schools can you apply for?

- You can name **any** state schools on your CAF, both in and outside your own local authority area.
- If you live in Slough, you can name up to 6 schools on the CAF. If you live in another local authority area, the number may be different.

Can you move house before the 31st October and still be accepted?

- The address you put on the CAF must be your permanent address as at 31st October. However, you should note that the different grammar schools may have other rules about your permanent address – check the individual admissions policies for further information.

If my child passes the test but does not live in Slough, do we move to Slough because of the catchment area? What are the chances of admission for children who live outside Slough eg Hounslow? If my child's score is very good, does he have a chance to be offered the place? We live 15km away from school and simply want to know if we can apply for Slough schools.

- You do not necessarily have to live in Slough to get a place at a Slough grammar school.
- Each school has its own oversubscription criteria which give priority to children from different places. Read the individual school's admissions arrangements carefully to find out the implications for you depending on where you live.
- The address you put on the CAF on 31st October must be your permanent address. Some schools may consider the address you give at the time of registration for the 11+ to be your permanent address.

How would we know if we are in the acceptable radius (catchment) - is there a way to calculate this? Does score point or distance get priority for offer?

- Although a score of 111 or above means a child is eligible for consideration for a place, each of the four Slough grammar schools has its own over-subscription criteria for admissions. These give different weighting to things such as postcode, faith etc depending on which school it is.
- You would need to check each school's admissions arrangements to determine how influential your address or postcode is.

What percentage of children outside the priority areas get into slough consortium schools? is there any data from past years please? What was the percentage of children who got into Slough grammar schools on the base of those applied?

- You should be able to view statistics for last year on the individual grammar school websites in the Autumn term.

Is there a priority for twins? I have twin girls - is there any advantage for them? What about Pupil Premium – any advantage?

- The School Admissions Code does not allow grammar schools to give any priority to siblings. Each child will be considered on the basis of their own score and how that relates to the school's oversubscription criteria.
- If your child attracts the Pupil Premium grant, there may be priority given by individual schools. You should check the admissions arrangements for each school to see if this is the case.

Please contact the admissions officers of the individual schools if you have specific questions about entry requirements for that particular school.

Your question may also be answered by looking at the school's admissions policy and oversubscription criteria, which will be available on their website.